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We regret that the work of Professor Guyot was placed in our hands at too late a period to do justice to the subject or the author. The want of time and space is one of the reviewer's common phrases, which, as Dr. Johnson says of the ordinary forms of courtesy, though they want the allurements of novelty, enjoy the security of prescription. But on this occasion, we employ it in the way of apology to Mr. Guyot, to whose book we have failed to do justice. To the reader we shall owe no apology, if we have said enough to excite his curiosity, and to persuade him to look to the book itself for further instruction. We will only add, that to an American, above all others, the study of these relations must prove agreeable and profitable; it will give him a new idea of the prospects and destiny of the nation to which he belongs, and it will impress him with a new sense of the deep responsibility that attaches to a people, to whose care is chiefly assigned the great cause of human liberty and progress.

- ART. XII. — 1. *Ancient Sea-Margins, as Memorials of Changes in the Relative Level of Sea and Land.* By ROBERT CHAMBERS, Esq., F. R. S. E. Edinburgh: W. & R. Chambers. 1848. 8vo. pp. 321.
2. *A Memoir upon the Geological Action of the Tidal and Other Currents of the Ocean.* By CHARLES HENRY DAVIS, A. M., A. A. S., etc., Lieutenant in the U. S. Navy. From the Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. New Series. Vol. IV. Cambridge. 1849.

Who wrote the *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*? The question has excited a good deal of curiosity, and has not yet received any answer except from vague and uncertain rumor. The author certainly intended to remain *incognito*, and seems even to have taken considerable precaution that he might not be unmasked. In his "note conclusive," he says that his book was "composed in solitude, and almost without the cognizance of a single human being;" and that "for reasons which need not be specified, the author's name is retained in its original obscurity, and, in all

probability, will never be generally known." In his subsequent work, also, *Explanations of the Vestiges*, published a year afterwards, he speaks of himself as "likely to remain for ever unknown." He ought not, then, to have written another book, putting his name upon its title-page, and discussing one of the subjects introduced into his anonymous treatise. His style both of language and argument, his mode of treating a scientific subject, the ingenuity and skill with which his materials are grouped together, and brought to bear for the illustration and proof of his theory, are so original and peculiar, — so "kenspeckle," as the Scotch say, — that one who is at all accustomed to attend to such particulars cannot fail to recognize them. We had read only the first two sentences of the work on *Ancient Sea-Margins*, when it seemed to us morally certain that the same hand wrote them which wrote the first two sentences of the *Vestiges*. We will place the two passages side by side, that our readers may judge for themselves, only asking them to observe the manner in which the writer strikes off at once, like a bold swimmer, into the heart of his subject, without a prefatory remark or word of notice.

"It is a familiar knowledge that the earth which we inhabit is a globe of somewhat less than 8000 miles in diameter, being one of a series of eleven which revolve at different distances around the sun, and some of which have satellites in like manner revolving around them. The sun, planets, and satellites, with the less intelligible orbs termed comets, are comprehensively called the solar system ; and if we take as the uttermost bounds of this system the orbit of Uranus (though the comets actually have a wider range,) we shall find that it occupies a portion of space not less than three thousand six hundred millions of miles in extent."

Vestiges, p. 1.

"Taking observed facts for our data, we know that there was a time subsequent to the completion of the rock formations, when this island (not to speak of other parts of the earth,) was submerged to the height of at least 1700 feet. The proofs lie plain and palpable before our eyes, in the soft detrital masses, mixed in many places with marine shells, which overlie the hardened formations, reaching in some places to that height above the present sea level."

Ancient Sea-Margins, p. 1.

The great popularity of the *Vestiges* must be attributed almost exclusively to the merits of its style. The theories propounded in it have been rejected almost with one voice by all the eminent men of science in Europe. But to the multitude it was an intelligible and fascinating book, setting forth a deceitful show of scientific knowledge with great elegance and clearness, and frequent felicity of expression and illustration, so that the uninformed were deluded into a belief that they perfectly understood the subject, and were able to judge of the validity of the theory and of the arguments by which it was supported. The author had evidently been well trained in the profession of adapting science to the comprehension of the people, and with this view had studied all departments of it without making himself a thorough master of any. Not one of his scientific opponents had these popular gifts of style, and their refutations were consequently appreciated only by the few; for the many they might as well never have been written. The editor of *Chambers' Journal*, who has distanced all competitors in the conduct of a periodical designed to diffuse taste and information among the lower classes in Great Britain, was better qualified than any person in Europe to write such a work as the *Vestiges*. He has now taken up a distinct subject of original investigation in geology; and though he writes upon it only for the scientific few, and not, as in the former case, for the multitude, the peculiarities of his manner, and even of some of his opinions, are manifest enough. The few following sentences, for instance, are strikingly like some of the more highly finished passages in the *Vestiges*.

“The result of the whole is, I could almost say, majestically simple. It merely unwinds and retraces into the bosom of the past a history such as we could suppose recommencing to-morrow. The superordinary and the vain imaginations of the ignorant mind expelled, there sits the solid frame of at least one considerable portion of the earth, serene and moveless, as if fastened in eternity, with only the traces on its surface of waters which chafed on it for a while, and then, obeying the resistless commission, quietly withdrew.” *Ancient Sea-Margins*, p. 281.

For a passage marvellously similar to this both in style and doctrine, we turn to the *Explanations of the Vestiges*.

“ The seas obeyed the impulse of gentle breezes, and rippled their sandy bottoms, as seas of the present day are doing ; the trees grew as now by favor of sun and wind, thriving in good seasons and pining in bad ; this, while the animals above fishes were yet to be created. The movements of the sea, the meteorological agencies, the disposition which we see in the generality of plants to thrive when heat and moisture were most abundant, were kept up in silent serenity, as matters of simply natural order, throughout the whole of the ages which saw reptiles enter in their various forms upon the sea and land. . . . In short, all the common operations of the physical world were going on in their usual simplicity, obeying that order which we still see governing them, while the supposed extraordinary causes were in requisition for the development of the animal and vegetable kingdoms. There surely hence arises a strong presumption against any such causes.”

Explanations of the Vestiges, pp. 132, 133.

If any doubt remained as to identity of authorship, it would be removed on finding in the *Vestiges*, within the compass of a page and a half, a clear and succinct account of those appearances on the face of the earth, and the geological inferences from them, which Mr. Chambers claims to have first brought to the notice of the scientific world in this work on *Ancient Sea-Margins*. We borrow the passage, because it is a better abstract than we could make of the contents of the later work, in which the theory is given, of course, with a great collection of observed facts to support it, the supposed sea-beaches being minutely described, and their respective altitudes above the present level of high water being accurately determined.

“ As the diluvium and erratic blocks clearly suppose one last long submersion of the surface (*last*, geologically speaking,) there is another set of appearances which as manifestly show the steps by which the land was made afterwards to reappear. These consist of *terraces*, which have been detected near, and at some distance inland from the coast of Scandinavia, Britain, America, and other regions ; being evidently ancient beaches, or platforms, on which the margin of the sea at one time rested. They have been observed at different heights above the present sea-level, *from twenty to above twelve hundred feet* ; and in many places they are seen rising above each other in succession, to the number of three, four, and even more. The smooth flatness of these terraces, with generally a slight inclination towards the sea,

the sandy composition of many of them, and, in some instances, the preservation of marine shells in the ground, identify them perfectly with existing sea-beaches, notwithstanding the cuts and scoopings which have every where and there been effected in them by water-courses. The irresistible inference from the phenomena is, that the highest was first the coast line ; then an elevation took place, and the second highest became so, the first being now raised into the air and thrown inland. Then, upon another elevation, the sea began to form, at its new point of contact with the land, the third highest beach, and so on down to the platform nearest to the present sea-beach. Phenomena of this kind become comparatively familiar to us, when we hear of evidence that the last sixty feet of the elevation of Sweden, and the last eighty-five of that of Chili, have taken place since man first dwelt in those countries ; nay, that the elevation of the former country goes on at this time at the rate of about forty-five inches in a century, and that a thousand miles of the Chilian coast rose four feet in one night, under the influence of a powerful earthquake, so lately as 1822. Subterranean forces, of the kind then exemplified in Chili, supply a ready explanation of the whole phenomena, though some other operating causes have been suggested. In an inquiry on this point, it becomes of consequence to learn some particulars respecting the levels. Taking a particular beach, it is generally observed that the level continues the same along a considerable number of miles, and nothing like breaks or hitches has as yet been detected in any case. A second and a third beach are also observed to be exactly parallel to the first. *These facts would seem to indicate quiet elevating movements, uniform over a large tract."*

Before Mr. Chambers called attention to these terraces of great elevation, and to the former high level of the sea or depression of the land, which they indicate, — the terraces having been formed, be it remembered, within the tertiary epoch, or posterior to the formation of all the sedimentary strata, — he affirms that they had remained unnoticed. Geologists had recognized *ancient beaches*, it is true, but "seldom at elevations over 43 feet above the present sea ;" while Mr. Chambers traces them up to an altitude of over 1300 feet. He affirms, also, that "scarcely any exact measurements of their elevations had been made, and hardly a suspicion had been anywhere intimated of their bearing relations to each other." These neglected phenomena he has carefully measured, compared with each other, and described, having extended his per-

sonal observations for this end over all Scotland, a large portion of England and Ireland, and part of France, and drawing from other observers numerous incidental notices of conspicuous terraces in other parts of the world. He claims complete originality, then, in these researches and speculations; and some question having been raised on this point, he appends in a note a list of the various notices of ancient sea-margins in Scotland above 40 feet, which have been published up to the present time. The first of these is a paper that he inserted under his own signature in the *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal* in April, 1843. It is somewhat remarkable, then, that he does not include in this list the clear and satisfactory, though brief, statement which we have just borrowed from the *Vestiges*, first published in 1844, and which, were it written by another hand, would effectually deprive him of all claim to priority of discovery. We feel quite safe, then, relying wholly upon internal evidence, for we have no external testimony whatever that bears upon the case, in pronouncing Mr. Robert Chambers to be the author of the *Vestiges of Creation*.

The most remarkable features of these ancient terraces are their parallelism, their horizontality, and, in one sense of the word, their continuity over vast districts of country, if not over the whole globe. We do not, indeed, find one terrace continued without break, and at the same elevation, round all the lofty shores and mountains of Scotland. The traces of it are often indistinct, and many hill-sides are not marked at all at the given height. But the elevation of one bench of land above the present level of high water being accurately determined, the observer is often surprised to find at a different location, perhaps at a great distance, another natural ridge, a plateau, or the side of a hill scored by a horizontal line, at precisely the same number of feet above high water. Several hundred of these phenomena, distributed all over the British isles, and portions of France, being carefully measured, Mr. Chambers finds that they may all be arranged into a few classes, distinguished by their differences of elevation. Many terraces, for instance, are found at the height of about 170 feet in various parts of Scotland, England, and Ireland; many others at about 190 feet; but none at an intermediate elevation.

Mr. Chambers appends to his memoir, as a convenient

summary of the information thus far obtained, a series of tables on a vertical scale, that show the "relations between the leading and more distinct terraces of America, Britain, France, and Norway, which have as yet been observed, and the elevations of which are given with any degree of care." The highest yet observed has an elevation of about 1340 feet, while the lowest is about 11 feet. All can be brought within the limits of 57 classes, 27 of which do not exceed 545 feet. In order to distribute them into so small a number of classes, however, it is necessary to give a range of a few feet—usually not more than 10—to each class. Thus, the limits of one class are 217 to 223 feet, and of another, 937 to 948. The general appearance of uniformity in at least the first of these tables, including the terraces at or under 545 feet, is, as Mr. Chambers remarks, sufficiently obvious. The following is his answer to the chief objection which may be made to the alleged facts and the conclusions that are founded on them.

"The terraces are so close to each other in some, if not all parts of the vertical space, that it might be thought almost impossible to distinguish them from one another. How easy, for instance, to confound a terrace at 497 feet with one at 513 or 14! How shall we be sure that the 514 feet instance is not the 497 feet terrace raised 17 feet above its original level? This is a challenge very natural for a person newly introduced to the subject, but which would in every case be withdrawn on a better acquaintance with it. Admitting that the levels were all of them describable as close to each other, they are nevertheless sufficiently definite and precise to identify themselves in practical observation. Any one who, in investigating for himself, found terraces repeatedly at 123-8, 141-6, 165-74, 186-95, *but never at any interspace amongst these numbers*, would soon come to acknowledge that the term closeness is of no force in the case. But the fact is, that there are portions of the vertical space to which this term is not applicable,—for instance, between 223 and 280. Another point of importance is the character of superiority or leadership which belongs to some of the markings, as those at about 108, 165, 280, 392, and 545 feet. These are usually on such a scale of breadth and massiveness of material, that the few intermediate ones become comparatively insignificant, and might almost be said to cease to have any place in the problem. There is, even in some of the lower beaches, as those at 43 and 64-70, such a distinctness of character, that, associated though they be, more or less closely, with markings of in-

ferior note and less frequent occurrence, there could be no mistaking them,—I could almost say without the ceremony of measurement.”

The tables appear to have been first arranged with reference to the benches of land and other horizontal markings in Scotland, in which country, as was natural, Mr. Chambers' observations were most minute and extensive. It was therefore a striking confirmation of his theory to learn that the northern shore of Lake Ontario, as it slopes up from the water-level to the interior of the country, had been found to be traversed by nine successive horizontal ridges, the several heights of which, varying from 342 to 996 feet, as accurately determined by a civil engineer employed for a distinct purpose, all fell within the limits of as many classes which our author had previously marked out. The river courses in this country, also, are often marked by two or three successive terraces at elevations corresponding to numbers given in these tables.

The most conspicuous and remarkable of these phenomena in Scotland are what have been called “the parallel roads of Lochaber,” which have long excited the curiosity of travelers and the speculations of men of science. Along one of the winding vallies in the neighborhood of Ben Nevis and Loch Lochy, the hills on both sides are seen very distinctly marked with three horizontal lines, one above the other, which the common people in the neighborhood believe to be roads which were made for the convenience of Fion and his companions in the chase. On looking at them, “one is reminded of Jupiter's belts, or of copy-lines ruled for text and half-text, so whimsical are the images which may rush through the mind on such an occasion.” The hills in this neighborhood are covered with an alluvial deposit, in which these parallel lines are indented, forming natural level pathways, varying in breadth from two or three up to thirty feet, and extending almost without break for five or six miles up the glen. The lowest shelf is 847 feet above the level of the sea; the next is 212 feet higher up, and the third is elevated 80 feet above the second. The lowest road is continued into another valley, called Glen Spean; and in a third glen, near at hand, is another terrace 30 feet higher than the loftiest one in Glen Roy.

Phenomena so remarkable had the effect, of course, to set the imagination of the geologists a working; and there is hardly any end to the theories which have been framed to account for them. Dr. Macculloch thought that lakes were originally dammed up in these glens, which burst their barriers at different periods, sinking each time to a lower level, and leaving at each pause a terrace to mark the former elevation of the waters. Playfair maintained that they were artificial, having been formed by the ancient inhabitants as aqueducts for irrigation; as if artificial irrigation were needed in a country where it rains for six days in the week, while a Scotch mist blinds the landscape on the seventh! Mr. Agassiz made a tour in Scotland in 1840, to see if any traces of ancient glaciers existed there; and he published his opinion that glaciers were the cause of the parallel roads of Lochaber, these masses of ice having dammed up the openings of the glens, and formed lakes which, at different periods, stood at different levels. Sir George Mackenzie suggested that they were formed during the subsidence of a great and transient flood, the traces of which were confined to those places where the water was comparatively free from agitation. Our author finds in them a proof that the sea all over the globe anciently stood at a much higher level than at present, and has receded at long intervals, probably in consequence of the sinking of Mr. Darwin's South Pacific continent. It was this view of the subject, probably, which tempted him to search elsewhere for indications of ancient sea-margins, and to compare them with each other, so as to open another page in the past history of the planet which we inhabit.

We shall not venture to give any opinion as to the value of these observations by Mr. Chambers, or of the doctrine which he founds upon them. Now that he has turned the attention of geologists to the subject, a sufficient number of these terrace-like formations will soon be observed and measured both in Europe and America, either to confirm or refute his theory that they may be classified in such a manner as to indicate the successive stages at which the waters paused as they were receding for the last time, and leaving this earth fit for the habitation of man. We need not argue about an hypothesis which must soon be tried by the testimony of facts. Instead of speculating further about the action of the

ocean upon the land in former ages, and under very different circumstances, let us see what the ocean is now doing, what operations are going on in its vast laboratory at present, the accumulated results of which will leave to remote futurity little trace of the configuration of land and water as it now exists. In the action of the tidal currents Lieutenant Davis has detected a powerful agent, not hitherto observed, for producing those remarkable changes in the earth's crust, the history of which is the great problem of geology.

The observations upon which his memoir is based were made while the writer, in his official connection with the Coast Survey of the United States, was employed a part of the time in observing the tides at Sandy Hook, and afterwards in making an accurate survey of the Nantucket shoals. He noticed that these shoals were nearly concentric with the shores of the island near which they lie; and the sounding lead showed that they were made up almost entirely of fine white sand, while the hollows of the sea between and around them were strewed with coarse pebbles and shells. The comparison of surveys, executed at long intervals of years, both of Sandy Hook and Cape Cod, proves that these tongues of land are extending, pushing farther seaward, and slowly altering their shape. Most of the low sandy capes which jut out along our coast are bent at their extremities, like an arm flexed at the elbow, so that the name of *Hook*, which is commonly applied to them, seems strikingly appropriate. Both the shoals and the capes, then, are recent formations, and are gradually increasing in magnitude, from the operation of some regular cause, which tends to give them similarity of outline. This cause must be the action of the tidal and other currents, which under certain circumstances wear away the coast and bear off the detrital matter, and under others allow the earthy particles to subside to the bottom, and after a sufficient time to form large deposits there. To ascertain how the tides produce these effects, or to determine the laws of tidal formations, and to trace back to their agency in past ages many of the phenomena now visible on the coasts of Europe and America, and even in the interior of the country, is the task which Lieutenant Davis proposes to himself in this memoir.

In the little space that remains to us, of course, we cannot follow out all the developments and applications of the sin-

gularly fertile principle by the aid of which our author accounts for the peculiar forms that these ocean deposits assume, and the localities which they prefer. We can only call the attention of our scientific readers to the subject, and refer them to the memoir for further information. The matter is one of great interest and importance, both in a practical point of view, to the navigator and to all who are interested in the preservation of harbors, and in the question of their comparative security and permanence; and in its scientific aspect, to the geologist and the student of the theory of tides and currents. Before Lieutenant Davis commenced his researches, but little was known respecting the mode in which bars were formed at the opening of rivers into the sea, and across the entrance of harbors, or by what laws the shoals which are so perilous to seamen are distributed along the coast. He had rare qualifications for investigating the subject with success, on account of his long experience in navigation and hydrographical surveys, and the thorough study which he had made of the ocean streams that are produced by the tides and other causes. One who was merely a geologist could have made but little progress in such a work. The empirical knowledge of an able navigator can seldom be generalized and rendered available for purposes of science. A naval officer, thoroughly trained in all the branches of his profession, well informed on scientific subjects, and having acquired, from his connection with the Coast Survey, the necessary local knowledge, Lieutenant Davis was admirably fitted to study the laws of ocean deposits and the action of the tides. The discoveries that he has made are of great value and fruitfulness, as they explain many phenomena, which had never before been referred to the operation of established laws, and have brought to light many facts which will influence the speculations of geologists. He has shown much sagacity in striking out a path of original investigation, great industry in collecting facts, and great skill and judgment in weaving them into a connected theory, to the farther development of which we look for very important results.

Where the tides rise to a considerable height, and by impinging against the shores form swift currents, the detrital matter which they bear away with them has no opportunity to subside. No deposits are formed in such cases; there are

none, for instance, in the Bay of Fundy, or on the coast of Maine. But when the force of the stream is somewhat spent by expansion, or where an eddy is created round an island or a bold point projecting from the shore, or comparative quiet is produced at some spot by the meeting of two tides coming in opposite directions, the still waters drop the matter with which they are freighted, and a shoal is formed, which, if the force of the waves be not too violent, rises after a sufficient lapse of time to the surface. The Nantucket shoals consist of fine quartzose sand, the character of which shows that it has been swept away from the neighboring shores. The shoals are firm and compact in structure, because they are a homogeneous mass, and rising near to the surface are hardened by the incessant hammering of the waves. As the tidal current sweeps along the coast, and parallel to it, a projecting point of land deflects it and turns it seaward; a cross current is thus formed for a little space at an angle with the normal direction of the tidal stream, and the waters, being checked for a moment, drop a portion of their freight. A spit shoal is thus gradually formed projecting seaward. When this rises to the surface, it becomes a sandy cape, and the water, eddying round its extreme point, falls in behind it, where it is wholly shielded from the current, and in part from the waves; thus reduced to quiet, the whole of its burden has time to subside, another spit is formed nearly at a right angle with the former one, and the peculiar *hook* formation is the result. Within the bay thus formed, the water deposit is spread out equably, and extensive flats are created, which Lieutenant Davis calls the *Bay Deposit*. If the tidal current be quite strong, the water may eddy round the point of the second spit with so much force, that a third shoal and subsequent tongue of land may be formed, curving still farther inland, until it even reaches the first cape, and a portion of the sea is thus enclosed as a lagoon, which the sea will breach only occasionally, in a storm or at a very high tide. But the sand being gradually heaped up around it, and fresh water constantly supplied from the rains and springs situated inland, its contents become first brackish, and then entirely fresh. Several instances of a sheet of water thus enclosed and cut off from the sea may be found along the shores of Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. "By these successive changes, a

home is created for animals of salt, brackish, and fresh water in the same spot, where their remains may be found buried together, as they are now in the tertiary basins of Paris and London."

River waters, that come down charged with sedimental matter, if they enter a sea that is tideless or nearly so, deposit their burden near their outlet, and thus form extensive deltas ; this is the case with the Nile, the Po, the Rhone, and the Mississippi. If, on the other hand, high tides sweep along their mouths, as at the opening of the Amazon, the Paraguay, and along our own eastern coast, not only no deltas are formed, but the rivers expand into wide estuaries, that often abound with shoals, formed not of the matter brought down the river, but of that introduced from the ocean. The river matter, because it is lighter, escapes in the rapid current created by the reflux of the tide, while the ocean deposit is formed during the flood.

Passing to the shores of Europe, Lieutenant Davis explains the tidal formations there with great clearness. The whole of Holland he considers as raised from the bed of the ocean in this manner. It is situated at that corner of the German Ocean, where the tide wave coming through the Straits of Dover is met and repelled by that which has made the circuit of the British isles, and returns to this point from the north. In the Channel, the tides rise from sixteen to thirty feet ; but where the waters escape from this narrow gorge, and expand into the North Sea, they rapidly decline to nine, six, and three feet, and on the coast of Jutland reach a vanishing point. Consequently, there are no ocean deposits in the Channel, except in small bights and bays, where eddies are created ; but the waters drop the chief part of their burden in the quiet region of the sea, along the coasts of the Netherlands and Jutland. All the land here is what our author calls a bay deposit.

We cannot pursue any farther the task of abridging this valuable memoir, which in itself is drawn up with great succinctness. Enough has been gleaned from it to give some idea of the writer's theory, and of the important applications of which it is susceptible, should his views be sustained and enlarged. The whole is an honorable contribution to science to be made by one who is constantly engaged in a sphere of

important professional duties, and who has therefore but little time to spare for theoretical speculations and researches. We have followed the development of the theory with the more interest, because it brings clearly into view the present and incessant operation, on a great scale, of at least one of those great causes, which, as geologists tell us, have in the lapse of many ages produced such astonishing modifications of the face of our planet. In a subsequent publication, we hope that the author may be able to unfold his doctrine more fully, to enrich it with additional illustrations and proofs, and apply it as a key to some of the vexed problems of geological science.

ART. XIII. — CRITICAL NOTICES.

1. *History of England from the Peace of Utrecht to the Peace of Paris*. By LORD MAHON. Edited by HENRY REED, Professor of English Literature in the University of Pennsylvania. New York : D. Appleton & Co. 2 vols. 8vo.

LORD MAHON is not a brilliant or captivating historian ; but he is something better. He is honest, candid, and trustworthy ; he writes like a plain and sensible man, who has diligently studied the subject, and is ambitious only to give a strictly faithful representation of characters and events, without regard to the consequences which it may have either on his party or himself. A moderate Tory in politics, he frankly avows his opinions, but uses no artifice or unfair means to sustain and defend them. The reader soon perceives, that he is aware of the natural bias thus operating on his mind, and is so fearful of yielding to it, that he rather leans the other way, and strives to find merit in the Whigs, though he may think it is only giving the Devil his due. His advocacy of party principles is, therefore, more formidable to his opponents than if he strove to wrest facts to their disadvantage. Though he is the present representative of one branch of the noble house of Stanhope, and speaks with honest pride of the good qualities and meritorious conduct of some of the former members of his distinguished family, he is not blind to their faults, but tells the whole story concerning them with as much frankness as if he were a stranger to their blood. Perfect sin-